

MCPL Receives 3-Star Library Award

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has just been named one of America's 3-Star Libraries by Library Journal (LJ). This national rating of over 7,407 public libraries identifies 258 "star" libraries that were announced in the November 15 issue. Libraries within the same per capita expenditure are ranked by the following per capita service outputs: visits, circulation, program attendance and public Internet terminal use. The LJ Index 2010 gives three, four or five stars to the top-rated libraries. Rankings are based on 2008 data from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. We are one of three library systems in the State of Maryland (Montgomery, Carroll and Harford) to receive a star rating.

As the recession took hold, these "star" libraries responded by providing excellent customer service, targeted programs and access to needed materials, information, computers and the Internet. This award is a reflection of MCPL's commitment to making our library system the best it can be in programs, services, materials and customer service. It also speaks to the hard work and dedication of the library staff who connect with our customers on a daily basis.

Community Support

Recently, MCPL has been the recipient of generous donations from local Friends of the Library chapters and two local family Foundations. Several FOL chapters provided funding to support the purchase of collection materials at their branch as well as funding for the purchase of materials system-wide.

The Gaithersburg-based Wolpoff Family Foundation donated \$10,000, and the Marvin and Sylvia Rubin Family Foundation of Darnestown donated \$5,000.

The funds the library received from the Wolpoff Family Foundation have been designated for the acquisition of workforce development materials to help job seekers impacted by the economic downturn. The donation from the Rubin Family Foundation will be used to purchase materials beyond what is provided by the County budget.

We appreciate the generosity of the local Friends chapters and the Wolpoff and Rubin family foundations. The donations, made through the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc., will help us acquire much-needed materials and help us meet the needs of our customers during these times of budgetary constraints.

Online Technology Services Survey

MCPL would like to know more about how customers use the Libraries' Internet computers and the public catalog computers. We also want to know if our customers are

successful in finding the help they need to use the technology services and equipment we provide. Please give us your input by completing the survey on our website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

Feedback from the survey will be used to help us evaluate and improve library computer services. The survey, accessible from any computer, will run through December 3.

Program Highlights

December kicks off with music programs featuring jazz performances by Christiana Drapkin, chamber music performed by the Adult Student Music Forum, and songs and stories that celebrate the changing of the seasons performed by Magpie (Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner).

Come and meet the authors Mary Beth Albright at Kensington Park and Willard Jenkins at Rockville Memorial. Ms. Albright is DC Magazine's local restaurant critic and author of *How Apples Grow: The Grow Your World Series* for children. Mr. Jenkins is an independent arts consultant and the co-author of *African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston*.

Free workshops on resume preparation, interviewing skills, using the Internet to job search and applying for a federal job will take place at the following libraries: Kensington Park, Long Branch, Marilyn J. Praisner, Twinbrook and White Oak. Registration is required.

For complete information about library programs and events, please view our online Calendar of Events.

Update on Building Projects

Olney Library will close for major renovations on December 31, 2010. The last day that service will be provided to the community is December 30. The exterior book drop will be open through January 7 at 5 p.m. After that date, customers may take their returns to any MCPL branch. Construction on the new facility is expected to begin in spring 2011 and will take approximately 18 months. Customers are encouraged to use any MCPL branch while the Olney Library is closed.

Stay Connected to MCPL

MCPL offers customers many ways to stay abreast of library news and account information. For the latest information about the library, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and for your most current account information, please sign up for email notification. It's an easy and convenient way to stay connected to the information you need to effectively manage your account 24/7.

From free access to books, DVDs, online databases, engaging programs and informational workshops to community spaces for the exchange of information and ideas and the expertise and assistance of knowledgeable staff – Montgomery County Public Libraries wants to give you plenty of reasons to check us out!

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